

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /057 W

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, CE

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEPUTY MINISTER

1. DHANAPALA WEERASEKERA, SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP)

M.P. FOR DEHIOWITA, WAS SWORN IN JANUARY 25

AS DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND SPORTS. THE MINISTER, K. B. RATNAYAKE, HAD NOT

PREVIOUSLY HAD A DEPUTY.

2. THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY MINISTER TO AN EMPTY SLOT

AFTER ALMOST SEVEN YEARS OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS PATENTLY

POLITICAL. WEERASEKERA IS A PARTY-JUMPER, HAVING GONE

THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP), SLFP, AND LANKA SAMA

SAMAJA PARTY (LSSP) BEFORE COMING BACK TO THE SLFP IN 1971.

HE WAS ELECTED ON THE LSSP TICKET AT

THE 1970 ELECTION. SINCE DEHIOWITA (RENAMED DERANIYAGALA

BY THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION) HAS NEVER ELECTED A

CANDIDATE OTHER THAN FROM THE LSSP, IT MAY HAVE BEEN

DEEMED NECESSARY TO REINFORCE THE IMAGE OF WEERASEKERA,

PREVIOUSLY A "MERE" M.P. , IF HE IS TO WIN AS AN SLFP CANDIDATE

THIS YEAR.

3. ANOTHER INTERESTING LINE OF SPECULATION IS THE

POSSIBILITY OF WEERASEKERA BEING BUILT UP TO A CONTEST THE

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NEIGHBORING CONSTITUENCY OF RATNAPURA, IF THE STRONG

INCUMBENT NANDA ELLAWALA IS DROPPED BY THE

SLFP. WEERASEKERA HIMSELF WAS M.P. FROM RATNAPURA

BETWEEN 1960 AND 1965.

4. WEERASEKERA HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN LINKED WITH THE

JANAVEGAYA, "MAOIST" WING OF THE SLFP WHICH NOW SEEMS

IN SOME DISARRAY WITH THE APPARENT SPLIT BETWEEN
ELLAWALA AND KUMAR RUPASINGHE. WEERASEKERA WAS A VICE
PRESIDENT OF TH SRI LANKA-NORTH KOREA FRIENDSHIP
ASSOCIATION IN THE LATE 1960'S. IN PRIVATE LIFE, HE
IS A GROWER AND EXPORTER OF ORCHIDS AND OTHER RARE
PLANTS.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3500045
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEPUTY MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, PINR, CE, (WEERASEKERA, DHANAPALA)
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